■ MEDIC

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Routes to tour in Germany

The Nibelungen Route

German roads will get you there – to the Odenwald woods, for instance, where events in the Nibelungen saga, the mediaeval German heroic epic, are said to have taken place. Sagas may have little basis in reality, but these woods about 30 miles south of Frankfurt could well have witnessed gaiety and tragedy in days gone by. In Worms, on the left bank of the Rhine, people lived 5,000 years ago. From the 5th century AD the kings of Burgundy held court there, going hunting in the Odenwald.

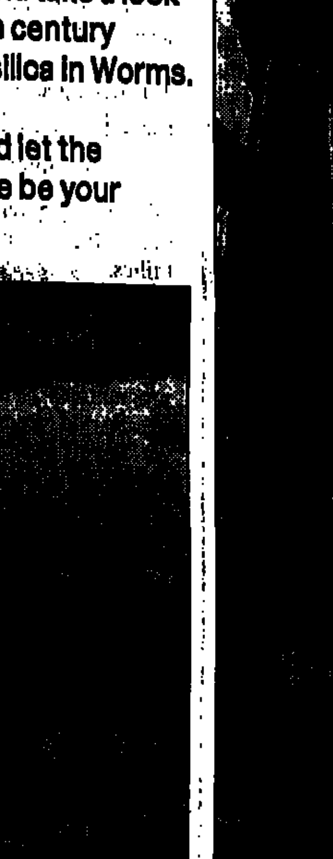
With a little imagination you can feel yourself taken back into the past and its tales and exploits. Drive from Wertheim on the Main via Miltenberg and Amorbach to Michelstadt, with its 15th century half-timbered *Rathaus*. Cross the Rhine after Bensheim and take a look at the 11th to 12th century Romanesque basilica in Worms.

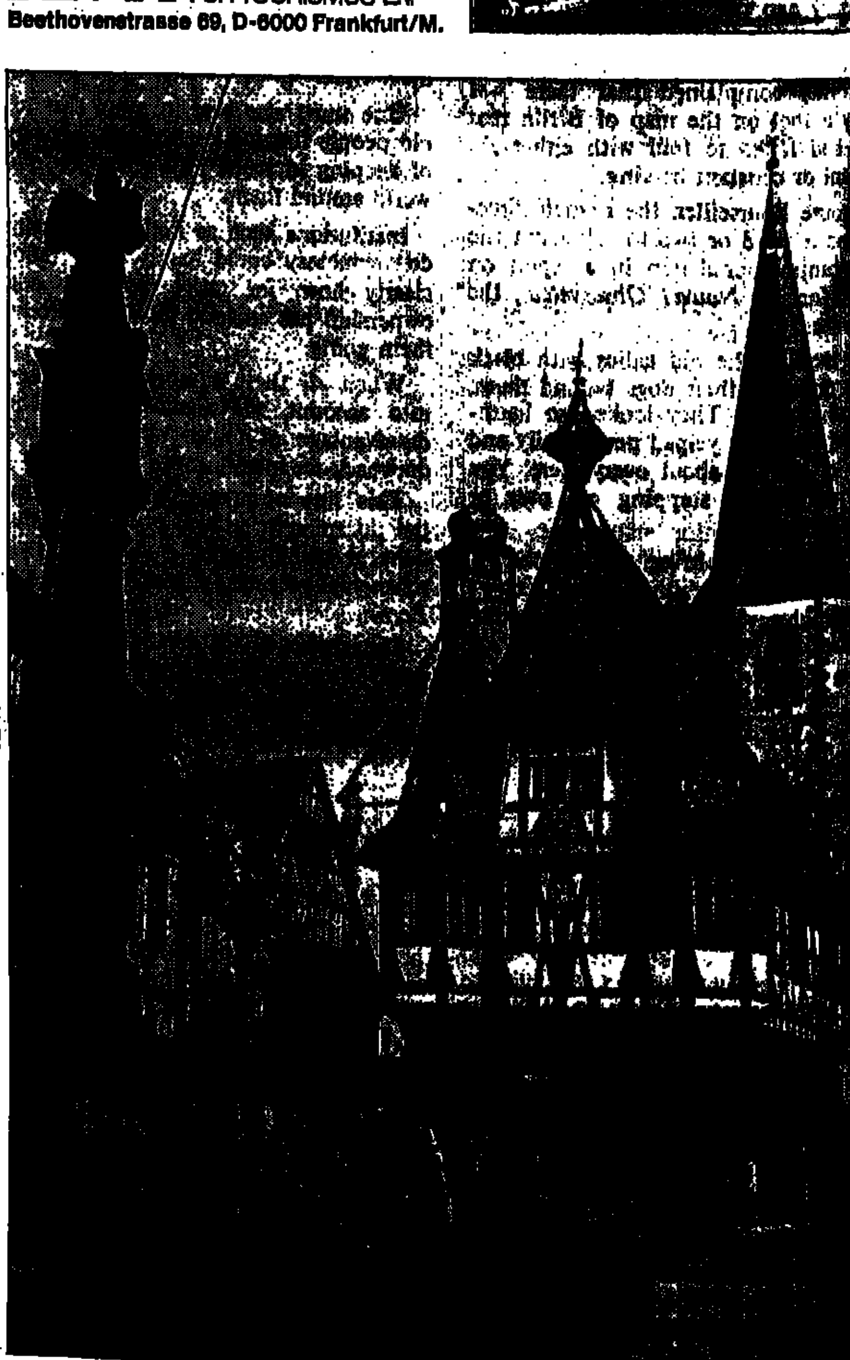
Visit Germany and let the Nibelungen Route be your guide.



1 The Hagen Monument in Worms
2 Miltenberg
3 Odenwald
4 Michelstadt
5 Wertheim

DZT DEUTSCHE ZENTRALE FÜR TOURISMUS E.V.
Beethovenstrasse 69, D-6000 Frankfurt/M.





The German Tribune

Hamburg, 14 February 1982
Twenty-first Year - No. 1024 - By air

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Pitfalls in the argument for nuclear-free zone



Fears about nuclear weapons in the Federal Republic of Germany are emerging as an argument in favour of a nuclear-free zone to be established in Europe.

It is an argument that aims at a crucial aspect of national security.

How popular it will become is difficult to say. But one example of its support was given at the conference of Hamburg Social Democrats.

A majority of delegates declared themselves in favour of such a zone, despite the arguments of Chancellor Schmidt, a Hamburg man.

It is not enough to counter the nuclear-free people with tactical arguments such as that their idea could tend to undermine Nato's deploy-and-negotiate resolution on medium-range missiles.

Arguments of this kind fall short of the mark. The question that needs asking is what would change and what would remain the same if a nuclear-free zone, including the Federal Republic were to be set up in Europe.

East and West would still be at odds politically. The stationing of nuclear weapons in Europe is a consequence, not a cause, of the tension arising from the division of Europe.

So the need of protection from the resulting risks would remain, as would the need to aim at a balance of military power in Europe.

In view of the strength of the Soviet armed forces this would be a virtually hopeless task because the means at Nato's command would have undergone a crucial change.

Without nuclear weapons Nato, assuming it was still in being, would be obliged to base its defence capability on conventional arms only.

What that means is something both military men and civilian experts, such as the Chancellor, know only too well.

The Federal Republic's eastern border runs 600 miles from the Baltic to the Alps and Bundeswehr and Allied divisions are supposed to defend the country at the border or as near to it as possible.

Their task is to hold a forward line of defence and not to fall back or surrender terrain, but this a fully equipped division can only do effectively if it is assigned a sector of the front that is no longer than 15 miles or so.

That means three dozen divisions would be needed to hold the forward defence line, and a further 9 to 12 divisions would be needed as an operational reserve.

Otherwise both material and physical resistance would be exhausted in a matter of days.

Thus a decision to join a nuclear-free zone would be based not only on the mistaken assumption that a nuclear power such as the Soviet Union could be dissuaded from deploying any weapons it felt it needed.

It would also necessitate a 100-per-cent increase in conventional manpower under arms, Nato currently having a mere two dozen divisions stationed in Germany.

Political groupings who are now sympathetic towards the idea of a nuclear-free tone can be sure to reject out of hand any such increase in conventional forces.

But the political effect on America of a nuclear-free zone in Europe would be even more far-reaching than the military consequences. By virtue of their political, economic and military commitments the Americans made possible the reconstruction and re-emergence of the European countries that sheltered under the US nuclear umbrella. They included, arguably first and foremost, the Federal Republic of Germany. The protection America affords Germany also includes five US Army divisions. They are a major contribution towards Nato's conventional armed forces, but that is not their foremost value to Europe. What matters most is that by their presence America is committed to defend itself in Germany. An attack on US forces in Europe would be an attack on the United States as a whole and a chal-

Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE



President Mubarak, of Egypt (left) is welcomed to the Federal Republic of Germany by President Carstens. The Egyptian leader later had talks with both Chancellor Schmidt and Foreign Minister Genscher. He then flew to Vienna on the last leg of his European tour. (Photos: Sven Simon)



THE CHANCELLOR'S big moment. Members of the Bundestag surround Chancellor Schmidt after he had won a confidence vote by 269-226. At left is SPD floor leader Herbert Wehner. Herr Schmidt called for the vote after launching a programme to boost investment and fight unemployment. But he made it clear that he was asking support for the whole range of government policies. He said he wanted to demonstrate the strength of his party. The voters needed to be sure, he said, that the four-year mandate given to the government in 1980 would be carried out. The result of the vote was greeted with prolonged applause from the coalition benches. The last Chancellor to ask for a vote of confidence was Willy Brandt in 1972. (See page 3).

Mubarak calls in to state his case

President Hosni Mubarak, of Egypt, and Chancellor Schmidt agreed during talks in Bonn that full self-determination for the Palestinians should be an essential part of the agenda in negotiations between Egypt and Israel. President Mubarak visited Bonn as part of a European tour. He and Chancellor Schmidt emphasised that they were in broad agreement about Middle East issues.

Bonn was Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's final port of call in a tour that took him to the United States and several European countries.

This was, perhaps, logical inasmuch as Bonn is least in a position to help mediate between Egypt and Israel.

Keen though foreign policy-makers might be to see action, Bonn had no choice but to exercise restraint in view of the special relationship between Germany and Israel.

Besides, there was nothing Bonn could do other than fully re-endorse the 1980 EEC declaration on the Middle East. Tied up in this way, Bonn's policy was largely invulnerable.

President Mubarak was expected to clarify where he stood, however, since he

Continued on page 2

■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Portugal, pushed by national prestige, gives its EEC application a nudge

Portuguese Premier Pinto Balsemao's fact-finding tour of Brussels, Luxembourg and Copenhagen, a trio of Common Market capitals, could hardly have been more sober or concerned with technicalities.

Yet politicians and the media in Lisbon managed to make it sound exciting. No-one will say so in as many words but everywhere one senses that the date of Portugal's accession to the EEC is a major issue, a matter of national prestige.

Before the tour Portuguese newspapers were suggesting that the country would be a member of the European Community by the beginning of next year.

What Senhor Pinto Balsemao negotiated in Brussels was deadlines for talks with a view to accession at the beginning of 1984, and even that was strictly provisional.

Deadline will be kept

'If all goes well'

The two sides might keep to the deadlines, a high-ranking Brussels Eurocrat noted, "if all went well."

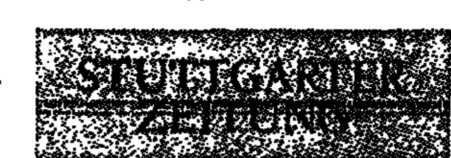
Why is Portugal in such a hurry? Because Spain has applied to join the EEC too. Spanish Premier Calvo Sotelo was in Brussels three weeks earlier in a bid to accelerate his country's negotiations.

Of the two, Portugal was first to apply. It would like to stay ahead of its big Iberian brother and the first to gain full membership of Europe.

That is how important Common Market membership is to Portugal after half a century of dictatorship.

The European Commission in Brussels has ruled that Spain and Portugal are to join the EEC together in 1984, making the Ten into a round dozen.

Yet Portugal might still be first past



the post. In comparison with Spain it is an economic flyweight with its population of nine million and per capita income of about $2,000 a year.

Spain weighs in at 37 million people and a per capita income of $3,500 a year.

The only serious obstacle to negotiations is Portuguese textiles and freedom of movement for over a million Portuguese migrant workers and their families.

Spain with its high tariff walls and farm output is much more difficult to digest in Brussels, weighing heavily on the French delegation in particular.

President Mitterrand of France has promised Lisbon to do all he can to speed Portuguese membership of the Common Market.

Unlike the Spaniards, the Portuguese hope to enjoy French backing and preference in their talks with the EEC. That is why they are not keen on negotiating to the same timetable as Spain.

Frustrated by the Common Market, Spain has given up jockeying with Portugal for pride of place. Yet the Portuguese are deeply mistrustful and suspect Senhor Calvo Sotelo of speaking with two tongues.

Spain distrusts Portugal too, fancying Lisbon might try to gain leverage from Madrid's application to join Nato. As a longstanding Nato member Portugal might delay its approval long enough for Spain not to gain membership this year.

Senhor Goncalves Pereira, the Portuguese Foreign Minister, has made it unmistakably clear that his country thinks in terms of competition with Spain.

He has called on the Spanish government to give a written guarantee that Spanish membership of Nato will not affect Portugal's sphere of influence and that Nato's Iberian command will not be based in Madrid.

Portugal and Spain overthrew longstanding dictatorships in 1974 and 1975 respectively and have since sought to promote and improve democratic relations.

Kind Juan Carlos and General Eanes have visited each other with pomp and circumstance.

In 1977 the Iberian defence pact concluded by Salazar and Franco in 1940 was scrapped and replaced by an agreement on economic and technical cooperation.

Both have tried to open up both intellectual and geographical frontiers (there are barely a dozen border crossing points along 600km of shared frontier).

Their bids to join Nato and the EEC have brought to the fore animosities of old that were deeply rooted on both sides of the border for historical and psychological reasons.

"When we're in Spain," says one young Portuguese woman, "we do at least try to speak Spanish. When they're here they speak nothing but Spanish." She has no time for them.

A small country ready

to compromise

This is typical of relations between the two countries. Portugal is a small country and ready to compromise, but afraid of its large and more aggressive neighbour.

Spain is a former world power that once, from 1580 to 1640, ruled over Portugal and for centuries went on to disregard it in a patronising way.

Portugal has a tradition of folk songs that make fun of the stiff and supercilious manner of the Spaniards.

These reciprocal complexes probably date back to the 12th century, when Portugal gained independence by quietly parting company with Galicia, which was part of the Spanish kingdom of Leon.

Portugal's historical and linguistic origins are to be found in northern ... In its later struggle for survival it ... foreign aid.

In the 14th century the English ... helping hand. From 1640 it was the ... of the French. England, traditionally hostile towards Spain, emerged as Portugal's protecting power.

So one can understand the Spaniards saying, with a note of irritation and disdain, that Portugal was to the left of the map when they looked towards England.

The Spanish and Portuguese temperaments are in many respects diametrically opposed. Portugal has yet ... to divest itself of the somnolence ... four relatively undisturbed centuries ... colonial power.

A pleasing nonchalance

a quiet courtesy

Lisbon, it will be recalled, ruled Angola, Mozambique and Brazil.

Together with a quiet, almost En... courtesy this gives the Portuguese pleasing nonchalance that is a far from the dry and energetic Cas... temperament.

The Portuguese are the better of the two at foreign languages and model themselves economically and culturally on Britain and France.

The Spanish plateau was mere ... territory as far as they were concerned, sort of no-man's-land on the way to Europe as they understood it.

Economically the two have never much to offer each other. They export similar range of products. Spain imports much less from Portugal than it ... from countries such as America, Britain and Germany.

Until recently they chose to ignore one another, but their bids to join the EEC has brought them jostling ... elbow.

Once mutual suspicions have been layed and both are full members ... democratic Europe, they can ... look each other in the face without historical prejudice.

Both governments solemnly ... friendship, but it is a cold ... The flow of holidaymakers ... them may help.

One of the most encouraging ... is that 23 per cent of tourists to Portugal now come from neighbouring Spain.

Werner ...

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 1 February ...)

Mubarak

Continued from page 1

was still very much the subject of speculation and surmise.

He had made it clear to President Reagan that Cairo was stronger in its support of the Palestinians than under President Sadat.

Israel's response was as testy as might be expected in the circumstances. It is hard to see how the spirit of Camp David is to continue.

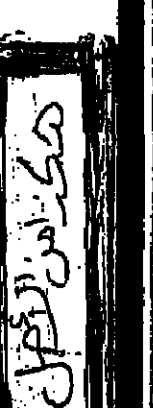
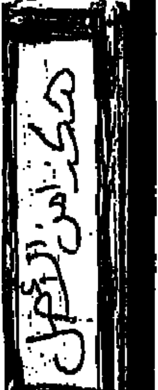
But progress in the Middle East has long ceased to be a matter of reconciliation between Egypt and Israel; it is one of safeguarding military positions.

This task is given priority by the Reagan administration, and both sides would do well to accept the fact and refrain from trying to fish in troubled waters.

With President Mubarak homeward-bound and Premier Begin growling continuously, US Defence Secretary Weinberger flew to Saudi Arabia, Oman and Jordan for talks.

The United States and its European allies are taking an increasing interest in other parts of the Middle East.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 6 February 1982)

Nuclear dispute

Continued from page 1

lenge to America as a nuclear and world power.

Anyone who attacks the Federal Republic will be attacking not only the Bundeswehr but also the US Army and the United States, if need be everything America has to hit back with, including nuclear weapons.

The Soviet Union is well aware of this and bears it in mind. It is the basis of West Germany's existence. If West Germany were to become part of a nuclear-free zone this basis would no longer exist.

Those who will hear nothing of nuclear weapons being stationed in Germany must logically be determined to prevent them from even being used, even as a deterrent.

As a nuclear power the United States cannot and will not agree to that; it cannot deprive the US Army in Germany of its last resort.

Thus the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in Central Europe and a US withdrawal from Europe would be but two sides of the same coin.

If this were to happen there could no longer be any question of a balance of military power in Europe, regardless how much Bonn and any allies might still have invested in conventional armament.

All this is self-evident to anyone who is aware of the facts of life of European security as they have taken shape since 1945.

But those who bear these basic facts in mind are a declining band. It is time for a few home truths, and responsible politicians should be putting them across.

In the long term the failure to grasp reality that is inherent in the clamour for a nuclear-free zone in Europe is extremely dangerous.

As Chancellor it is up to Helmut Schmidt more than anyone else to counteract it. He ought to say out loud and in public what it would mean for the Federal Republic if it were to be a nuclear-free zone.

And he must speak out before demand for a nuclear-free zone assumes more than brush-fire proportions.

Karl Feldmeyer

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 3 February 1982)

The German Tribune

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

Compromise reached on job-creation package

The Bonn coalition seems to have been saved by the skin of its teeth. In any event, FDP and SPD agreed on a solution that had been mooted two weeks earlier: an employment and investment stimulant to be financed mainly by raising VAT.

The obvious question is: Why not in the first place?

After all, the talks had begun in a much better mood than last year's round of negotiations that was dubbed the "summer theatre" at the time.

This time, there were no hidden threats of changing coalition partners and no announcements of a major change of course.

What the coalition wanted this time was to demonstrate discipline and the ability to reach a decision. But it took only a short time before the normal state of affairs was restored: a public tug-of-war.

The familiar openly displayed crisis once more became the prevailing picture, complete with marathon sessions that ended without results though with considerable personal disenchantment.

The wounds that were inflicted in the process did not just fester quietly and out of public sight — despite the strict secrecy that was imposed on the talks.

The government has announced a DM12.5bn programme to raise investment and create jobs. A 10 per cent investment grant is offered to firms which this year invest in new plant and buildings. Small and medium-sized firms will be able to get cheap credit from state-owned banks. An extra DM400m will be spent on youth employment schemes. VAT will be raised one per cent to 14 per cent in July 1983. The package has still to be approved by Parliament.

Thanks to Herbert Wehner, the magnitude and drama of the crisis were there for all to see.

Should a programme founder on differences of views, SPD Floor Leader Wehner said in interpreting his Chancellor, "the coalition could no longer count on him."

It can safely be assumed that Wehner's statement caused mixed feelings in the Chancellor.

He can certainly not have considered the statement helpful in promoting the talks, but then it was not quite unwelcome either because Wehner had highlighted Helmut Schmidt's decisive role in the coalition. Last summer, when the FDP was the dominant factor in the talks, is still unforgotten.

The last operation is only a stage on the tedious road that the Chancellor would probably describe as follows: to secure the economic potential of the Federal Republic of Germany under changed conditions, to improve its competitiveness and to safeguard social peace.

This, together with security policy, has been the main issue for the Chancellor — an issue to which he has devoted himself as a preacher, warner and wooer.

To succeed (or at least fail without giving up his convictions) the Chancellor would stop short of neither threats of resignation nor asking parliament for a vote of confidence.

The fact is that the programme itself confronts his parliamentary group with a vote of confidence: an aye for the Chancellor or the end of the coalition.

Neither of the two coalition partners finds it easy to accept the programme. The FDP has had to abandon many of its ideas.

Originally, it rejected any such programme out of hand, though it never became clear whether this was for reasons of principle or whether, like the Chancellor, it simply wanted to block a conventional bundle of government measures.

Rejection on grounds of principle was impossible to maintain due to our dramatically rising unemployment. The second of the original positions to the effect that any programme, should it come about, must not be financed by tax increases but by a shift in budget positions was also untenable.

Finance Minister Hans Matthöfer (SPD) had no scope left in that respect. Moreover, the opposition conservatives were of little help when they refused to come up with a financing proposal that would have supported the FDP.

It is no coincidence that some liberals have been overheard saying that the conservatives have once more missed their chance by failing to make political hay out of the dispute within the coalition.

Still, the FDP can take credit for the fact that the financing finally agreed on was based on Economic Affairs Minister Count Lambsdorff's original proposals before he dropped them for some inscrutable reasons.

The increased VAT is later to be offset by a reduction in the income tax. The shift from direct to indirect taxes which CDU and FDP have wanted will now take place. The FDP has also been successful in bringing about a relaxation of the rent laws. So the liberals can be fairly satisfied with the final outcome.

The Social Democrats will also find it hard to give the package their final approval. Though they can claim that they gained the upper hand by adopting the programme which the FDP had originally rejected, the volume of the measures falls short of expectation and the method of financing will not fit into everybody's concept. In addition, what structural changes there are in the programme (as for instance with regard to the rent laws) will confirm many of those who maintain that it is the man-in-the-street who will have to foot the bill for the envisaged investments. So the Social Democrats also have to swallow a bitter pill or two.

In any event, the effectiveness of such a programme is debatable. What is not debatable is the fact that even if its volume were bigger the programme could not eliminate the unemployment that is due to structural reasons — and that is the largest part by far.

Views differ on whether

programme will help

There are only about 500,000 people out of work for economic reasons, and views differ widely on whether they can be helped with such a programme.

It is unlikely that the government measures will bring much relief to these people despite the fact that this is the first such programme providing for a shift from consumption to investment.

The most important aspect is its psychological signal effect. Months of discussion — and the Chancellor himself had invited the trade unions to participate in the talks — that led to no results in the end would have overtaxed the SPD's ability to continue at the head of the Bonn government.

This would also have made it impossible for the trade unions to continue cooperating on further painful changes in our economic and social structure — changes which the Chancellor considers absolutely necessary.

The contours of Helmut Schmidt's policy are becoming clearer now. So far as its substance is concerned, this policy is far removed from the French model aimed at stimulating demand by bloating public sector budgets. Many Social Democrats actually say that it is too far removed from the French approach.

But Helmut Schmidt's policy is also far removed from the socially insensitive radicalism of the American and British models.

What the Chancellor is doing is a difficult policy blend but he must be given credit for having attempted to bring about structural change in an atmosphere of relative peace.

So far as the organisational setup of Helmut Schmidt's chancellorship democracy is concerned, it is becoming increasingly obvious that he is trying to get out of party ties.

Schmidt has three government partners: the trade unions, the FDP and the SPD. And relations with each of these partners are different.

There are objective differences between Schmidt and union leaders on economic and employment policy, but the relationship is friendly and based on mutual faith.

The Chancellor's differences with the SPD are equally great and he frequently lets his party know it. Whenever he voices his anger about the difficulty of governing, the butt is usually his own party.

But while the conflict with the SPD is of a more strategic nature, the differences with the FDP lie more in the field of political tactics.

The fact is that the chancellor is not far removed from Hans-Dietrich Genscher's concept of "change" though he himself would not use the expression. Like the FDP leader, the Chancellor is convinced that the process of structural adaptation must continue and that further measures will be necessary with regard to the 1983 budget.

Helmut Schmidt's opting out of the usual party democracy is also evidenced by the decision making processes that are increasingly acquiring governmental traits. The processes take place in a small circle and the parliamentary group is then confronted with a fait accompli. The present operation is a classical example of this.

The parliamentary groups may sniff at the pots while the cooks are still preparing the stew, but they are not permitted to lift the lid and look inside.

Schmidt could be said to be governing a cabinet of the elite that is independent of his party — an elite of one: the Chancellor.

The governmental common sense he personifies frequently lacks a likeable power to convince. The principle is: There is no alternative to Chancellor Schmidt.

But this method has its pitfalls. It forces the parliamentary group to be obedient while at the same time promising its desire to make the Chancellor pay for this humiliation.

The parliamentary groups are the first element in this operation. The Bundesrat, with its conservative majority, is the second. After all, the programme must be passed by the Upper House.

The coalition expects that the *Länder* will go along with the solution worked out in Bonn in order to protect their own interests since a considerable portion of the extra tax revenue will go to them.

The government pins even more hopes on the likelihood that the conservatives will not risk the odium of having made the programme founder on their veto.

But will the coalition be over the hump once the operation has succeeded? It is doubtful.

The negotiations have demonstrated how wide the gap is between FDP and SPD on economic principles.

The tug-of-war over the 1983 budget (due to begin early this summer) will once more lead to a clash between the partners in which they will ask themselves if they can go on?

And it is by no means certain that the Chancellor will again succeed in forcing them to go along with his political common sense by resorting to the threat of resignation and then calling for a vote of confidence.

Rolf Zundel

(Die Zeit, 5 February 1982)

Confidence vote: first Brandt and now Schmidt

The vote of confidence has been used only once before in the Bundestag by a Chancellor, by Willy Brandt.

All a Chancellor needs to do if he wants the Bundestag to give him a vote of confidence is to call for one under Article 68 of the constitution.

This is what Chancellor Schmidt did.

If the vote goes against the Chancellor, the President can on the Chancellor's proposal dissolve Parliament within 21 days and call for elections.

However, that is all superseded if within 21 days the Bundestag elects a new Chancellor from its own ranks with an absolute majority.

If the 269 SPD and FDP MPs were unable to come up with 249 pro-Schmidt votes by roll call, the Chancellor would theoretically have been entitled to ask for a second vote of confidence within the 21-day span before the dissolution of Parliament.

The Constitution regards the dissolution of the Bundestag as a last resort only.

This is also borne out by the provision whereby the President may dissolve parliament but he does not have to do so.

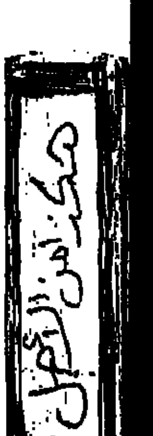
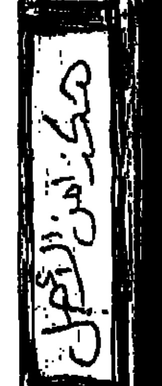
As a result, the vote of confidence is not a common parliamentary tool.

It has been used only once in the history of the Bundestag, in 1972, when Chancellor Brandt wanted new elections because he no longer had a majority.

When the government members deliberately stayed away from the confidence vote, thus making it impossible for Brandt to win it, the road to new elections was open.

Reinhold Michels

(Rheinische Post, 4 February 1982)

■ MIGRANTS

Bundestag debates an urgent problem

Nordwest-Zeitung

Jokes about foreigners are going the rounds. The jokes are not very funny. This attitude is a product of the more difficult times facing the Federal Republic of Germany.

If this thoughtless mockery continues, we had better beware of the consequences of xenophobia.

The Bundestag had this in mind when it decided to debate the issue.

It was, by and large, a sensible debate which showed that Bonn politicians take the issue seriously and regard foreigners as just as deserving of care and protection by the state as Germans.

The question is, of course, how to combat what is becoming an increasingly urgent problem.

There are nearly five million foreigners in the Federal Republic. Despite many efforts by Bonn, the influx continues.

Apparently it is not easy to be fair on this question: if immigration laws are tightened up, accusations of hostility towards foreigners are bound to fly; if borders are opened wider, the problem could worsen.

The Federal Republic of Germany is too small to be a true immigration country.

Yet it owes a debt of gratitude to the foreign workers it once needed and recruited — and not because they perform jobs no German would touch with a bargepole.

We live in a shrinking world. People of different cultural backgrounds now have many more possibilities than in earlier eras to meet and get to know each other.

Modern air travel makes the distance between continents dwindle to mere hours. And Europe itself is coming closer and closer together — so much so that once distant Turkey has become our next door neighbour.

We must come to terms with this, but not at the price of exacerbating the problem.

In other words, we must make it clear to our foreign population that we can provide work and a livelihood for a limited number of them only. But we should beware of giving the impression of hostility or arrogance.

The concepts presented by the parties in the Bundestag are aimed at providing solutions that would avoid intolerable hardships and at the same time prevent the problem from getting out of hand.

There can be no denying that both government and opposition are seeking a solution with the due earnestness the issue deserves.

It is up to us Germans to explain our aliens' policy to the people concerned. This is a difficult task and it is anything but certain that it will succeed.

No matter how well meaning the efforts of authorities, political parties, trade unions, churches, clubs, schools and, indeed, just plain neighbours, they are hampered by one major obstacle: the self-imposed isolation of foreign population groups and their stubborn resistance to integration.

Karl Hugo Pruys

(Nordwest Zeitung, 5 February 1982)

1 in 13 is a foreigner

in the Federal Republic of Germany

Foreigners in millions

1963: 1.1 — 1969: 2.4 — 1975: 4.1 — 1981: 4.6 = 7.5%

comprising (in millions): From EEC lands 1.2; Turks 1.5; Jugoslavs 0.6; Others 1.3 (Mio)

INDEX FUNK 1173

Millions just waiting to come, says MP

Millions of Turks want to come to the Federal Republic of Germany. If they come, the German welfare state would collapse, warned a CDU MP in the Bundestag.

Alfred Dregger said that because of the Association Treaty between Turkey and the EEC, Turkey expects its people to have full freedom of movement within the EEC by 1986.

"When that tide engulfs us, it would mean the collapse of our welfare state."

Herr Dregger, speaking in an aliens' debate, accused the government of having failed in its aliens policy. It had ignored early warnings from the conservatives.

Instead of acting, the government had allowed acute problems to continue.

Bonn must draw the Turkish government's attention to the potential problem of a huge influx of Turks into the Federal Republic.

"Turkey is our ally in Nato", said Herr Dregger. "There are old ties of friendship linking our peoples. But the Turks are difficult to integrate; they want to remain what they are: Turks.

"The friendship would be placed in grave jeopardy if millions of Turks were to form ghettos in Germany."

While SPD and FDP speakers called for the greatest possible integration of foreigners at work and in society, the CDU/CSU opposition made it clear where it draws the line. It rejected any title to naturalisation.

However the parties agree that the number of foreigners in the Federal Republic of Germany must be limited and asylum procedures must be speeded up.

They also agree that problems involving integration and/or repatriation must be solved quickly to head off growing hostility towards foreigners.

Opinion surveys reveal increasing xenophobia, and that is one reason the Bundestag debated the issue.

The parties differ on specific questions, but they agree that solutions must be found across party lines.

Bonn Interior Minister Gerhart Baum (FDP) said that he was particularly worried about the close link between hostility to foreigners and right-wing extremism.

"We must realise that sections of the population are worried about loss of national identity; and we must prevent this fear from turning into xenophobia — fueled and exploited by irresponsible agitators operating with such slogans as 'out with the foreigners'. Aliens policy involves people, their destinies and, sometimes, their very physical existence."

The minister told the Bundestag that Germany's foreign population now stands at 4.6 million or 7.5 per cent.

In the past three years alone, he said, the number of foreigners rose by 649,000 or 16.3 per cent. Only 1.4 million aliens in Germany are EEC nationals.

Baum reiterated the aims of Bonn's aliens' policy:

- Effective immigrations curbs;
- Economic and social integration of those foreigners who have lived and worked in this country for many years; and
- Repatriation incentives.

Said Baum: "We now have some 1.9 million jobless in this country. The unemployment rate for foreigners is 12 per cent. We must make it clear to them that we have reached the limits of our capacity."

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 5 February 1982)

The statistics that led to action

It took rising hostility towards foreigners, skyrocketing unemployment and the alarming forecast that today's 4.7 million aliens in this country will reach 6 to 7 million by the year 2000 if immigration continues unchecked to prod politicians in Bonn and the *Länder* into action — after much dilly-dallying.

Late last year, all *Länder* restricted the immigration of the next-of-kin of aliens living in this country, though not sharply enough.

As a result of past omissions and conflicting action, we are now faced with having to choose between one inhumanity or another.

Experts agree that the large number of late arrivals among the foreigners (those who came to this country aged 14 or 15) are doomed to failure in our educational and vocational training system and that they will swell the ranks of the jobless.

As a result, even SPD cabinet members now favour lowering the age at which children abroad may join their parents in this country from 15 to 12 years.

This is the age at which compulsory schooling in Turkey ends. If the children were to remain there and come to this country at a later stage they would stand virtually no chance of getting an apprenticeship due to the language barrier.

As long as employment and income prospects remain so much worse in Turkey than in this country, nobody should nurture the illusion that Turks living in Germany will be prepared to repatriate — no matter what the financial incentives.

For those foreigners who genuinely wish to become integrated it should become easier to become German citizens. This applies particularly to the second (and soon third) generation — in other words, those who have grown up in this country.

Rainer Nahrendorf

(Handelsblatt, 5 February 1982)

Life in the ghettoes

Two remarks during the Bundestag debate on aliens' policy showed that parliamentarians at times act like blind people who speak about colour.

Bonn Interior Minister Gerhart Baum showed considerable commonsense when he said it was easier to talk about integration in parliament than to live in a Turkish ghetto.

His fellow FDP MP Hölscher, on the other hand, tried to depict the Turkish ghetto in West Berlin's Kreuzberg district as quaint and having the same charm as New York's Chinatown or Little Italy.

Were not Little Italy and Chinatown the very elements that made New York so appealing, Herr Hölscher asked.

Perhaps, you could say; but only for the tourist who wants to spend a few hours in a somewhat different atmosphere. But who of us would want to live there?

The same applies to West Berlin. True, Kreuzberg is routinely put on sight-seeing schedules because many might find it quite amusing to gape at the exotic ways of the Turks through the window of a bus. But would any of these German sight-seers want to live there?

Berlin's Social Affairs Senator Fink spoke of concentrations of foreigners in metropolitan areas and conurbations where the quota of non-German school children was as high as 80 per cent.

The fact that Germans feel as if they were minorities in their own country in such areas has nothing to do with nationalism, and the politicians concerned know this.

The primitive slogan "out with the foreigners" can hardly be the right response to this. But to prevent more hostility towards foreigners, we do not need hours of Bundestag debates but swift and incisive action.

The problem of asylum seekers who come to this country for purely economic reasons has long been known but nothing has been done to shorten the recognition procedure.

Last year's decision by Bonn to restrict the immigration of foreign children is a step in the right direction but inadequate due to the many loopholes that can be used to circumvent the regulations.

The praiseworthy but frequently unsuccessful efforts at integrating the aliens into our society must remain in vain unless the German public, which must ultimately help with this integration process, is given clear evidence through political action that the present 4.7 million aliens among us are the absolute upper limit. *Reinhold Michels*

(Rheinische Post, 5 February 1982)

■ WAGE AGREEMENTS

Plan to reduce public sector pay falls at first trade-union hurdle

Plans for a 1 per cent wage reduction for public service employees have run into trouble.

Local authorities, one of the three employer groups involved, agreed to drop the idea after a meeting with union representatives.

They will continue paying the old rates until a new agreement is signed.

Architect of the employees' victory was Heinz Kluncker, general secretary of the 1 million-strong ÖTV, or public service and transport workers union.

The decision has annoyed the other two employers, the Federal and State Governments.

The wage and salary cut was intended by politicians as part of a 1982 budget cuts package to show that the government was prepared to tighten its own belt as well as everyone else's.

At a meeting in Stuttgart Bonn Interior Minister Gerhart Baum on behalf of the Federal government insisted that Bonn and the *Länder* were going to cancel weightings corresponding to one per cent of 2.6 million public service employees' wages and salaries from March.

The cut has already been given the legislative go-ahead for 1.7 million civil servants, to whom different regulations apply and who are forbidden by law to strike (but enjoy job security and better pension rights in return).

But trade unions representing civil servants and public service employees *would* hear nothing of a "special sacrifice" and still won't.

The local authorities may have backed down but the other two have yet to do so, although their position is weaker now one employer has broken ranks.

Herr Baum for the Federal government and Heinrich Schreiner for the *Länder* (he is state secretary at the Rhineland-Palatinate Interior Ministry) face a tough task.

How are they going to explain to a Federal government or *Land* employee why he should find one per cent less in his pay packet from March while local government employees will carry on drawing the same pay as before?

It is easy to see why Herr Kluncker is fulsome in his praise of the employers he persuaded to maintain the status quo.

The local authorities, he says, have upheld the independence of collective bargaining and not just acted on political orders.

Yet that is not going to stop the union leader from talking tough in the wage round. Herr Kluncker makes the point in the February issue of his union journal, *ÖTV Magazin*.

The local authorities, he says, agreed to continue paying the full weightings only on the understanding that from March they would be included in the percentage points awarded by the terms of this year's wage agreement.

"Our position is clear," he writes. "This year, as every year, we will not be agreeing to any kind of tit for tat in this context. We remain determined not to accept wage cuts anywhere along the line."

So the local government authorities can forget any idea of counting the one per cent against 1982 wage increases regardless whether or not it was they who enabled Herr Kluncker to make his breakthrough.

Heinz Kluncker has been a wage negotiator for 30 years. On the trade union side only Rudolf Sperner of IG Bau, the building workers' union, has been in the business longer.

He has shown the employers yet again that wishes or political or moral declarations of intent have no place in wage negotiations.

So the local authorities, although praised by the unions, have made no headway with them. They have also come in for criticism, at least off-the-record criticism, by Federal and state government employers.

But local government spokesmen say that if they had not backed down the consequences could have been catastrophic.

Their chief negotiator, Oberbürgermeister Hans Lorenser of Ulm, says the arrangement with ÖTV has spared the public industrial action of a most irksome kind.

True, the local authorities stood to be hit hardest by strike action. The harder the strike hits the general public, the more effective it is from the union's point of view.

Industrial action by public transport workers, by gas, electricity and water board staff and by municipal garbage disposal departments *is* effective.

As a rule, in contrast, few people would lose much sleep if Ministry officials were to down tools.

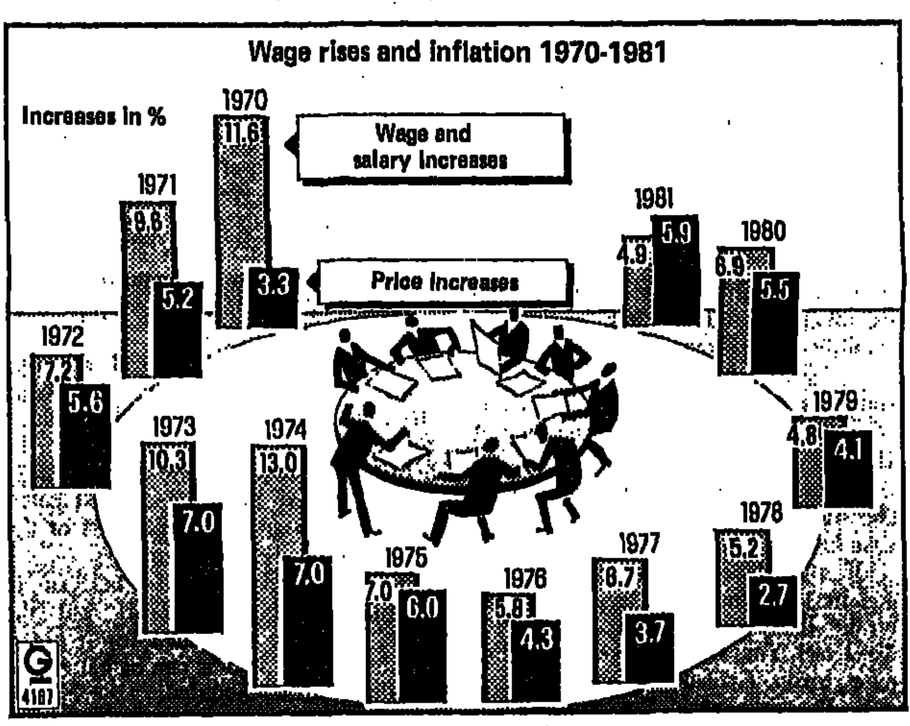
So, in a way, Herr Kluncker has surrendered one of his most effective weapons in coming to terms with the local government employers.

Strike action against Federal and state government employers alone would be much less effective and make much less impact on the public.

It might well leave the public service employers in a position to let ÖTV stew in its own juice. But Herr Kluncker is banking on public service employers going for uniformity.

They have always done so in the past and he has been quick to cite an example of how difficult life can become

Continued on page 6



A big dispute over a small amount

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Bonn Interior Minister Gerhart Baum has taken some of the wind out of union leader Heinz Kluncker's sails by offering to hold wage talks before the usual deadline.

Herr Kluncker is general secretary of the 1m-strong ÖTV, or public service and transport workers' union, and though the sails are a little slack anyhow he is obstinately continuing to threaten strike action in support of wage claims.

The situation is very confused, but it is surely worth trying to avoid a strike over 1 per cent cuts that in most cases would not amount to more than DM15 or DM20 a month.

There is no point in trying to settle who is to blame. As always, the politicians lacked the pluck to clear away dead wood in the public service.

And now, with Herr Kluncker so obstinate, they seem increasingly nervous about the emergency alternative proposal, an across-the-board wage and salary cut of one per cent in the public sector.

The public service employers' position was weakened badly when, on 28 January, the local authorities broke ranks and agreed to continue paying the old rates until a new wage agreement had been negotiated.

The local authorities had every right to be annoyed at not having been informed of the one-per-cent cut plan until after the Bonn Cabinet had agreed on it.

But they would have done better to toe the joint line. They are so deep in debt that disunity could well boomerang next time.

Since the Bundespost will continue paying the old wages and salaries in any case and the local authority employers have now chickened out too, only half the public service staff are likely to be hit by the cuts.

What possible sense can that make?

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 30 January 1982)

Iron and steel workers reject 3 per cent

Iron and steel employers in South Württemberg and the Rhineland-Palatinate have offered their workers a 3 per cent increase.

It is really less than 3 per cent because they want the agreement to run from May instead of February.

The trade unions, of course, have rejected this out of hand.

They stalked out of the talks without even arranging a deadline for the next meeting.

But that is not unduly alarming. For years dramatic gestures have been part and parcel of the collective bargaining routine.

It is hard to part company with long-established habits, even when they have long been overtaken by reality.

With unemployment only a whisker short of two million, noises off are not needed this time round. Both sides ought to be concentrating exclusively on safeguarding existing jobs and creating new ones.

In certain circumstances this might even entail the employers attaching more importance to coming to terms with their staff than in balancing their books.

Employees for their part may have to wave a tearful farewell to the idea of wage increases that at least keep pace with inflation.

This is the intention behind the iron and steel employers' offer. They will have found it hard to ignore advice to offer no wage increases at all this year.

But if that had been what they had to offer the trade union negotiators, readiness to compromise would have been ruled out from the start.

The unions would have considered a zero before the decimal point tantamount to a declaration of war.

The negotiators for IG Metall, the metalworkers' union, are up against it in any case. They represent 2.7 million members of the largest trade union in the country.

They have called for wage increases of 7.5 per cent, which is hardly feasible with the economy in its present state, so they have very little leeway for negotiation.

Having manoeuvred themselves into this position, they are doubtless worried that the rank and file will be upset if the terms agreed are substantially lower than the union's wage claims.

Such fears are surely unfounded in 1982. The man on the shopfloor has long since realised that jobs must be given priority. Everything else, including the wage talks, must be subordinated to safeguarding jobs.

It looks as though the trade union leaders lack the little extra courage needed to look this fact in the face and be guided by it. *Hans Wolff*

(Nordwest Zeitung, 29 January 1982)

■ FINANCE

Oil dearer, debts bigger, bankers meaner

Poland's insolvency has hit the major banks and other financial institutions much harder than they are prepared to admit.

It was predictable that the growing foreign debt of many countries would lead to complications at some point. Are we now headed for an international financial crisis?

The two oil price shocks have led to serious balance of payments problems for all non-oil producing countries.

After the 1973/74 shock, Opec's surplus petrodollars were recycled to the world's money markets through the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the banking system.

This money helped plug many a hole in balances of payments. But the recycling also sharply increased foreign debts of the borrowers. The practice is still in operation today, but under different conditions.

After the first oil price increase, Opec amassed a balance of payments surplus of US$65bn in 1975.

But due to stepped up imports by the Opec countries and as a result of the more economical use of oil in the buyer countries, the surplus dwindled to next to nothing by 1980.

The second massive oil price increase hiked the surplus to US$100bn again. Half of this money was invested in the world's money markets. But this source of finance is likely to diminish as oil consumption continues to drop.

The Euromarket, a gigantic receptacle for foreign exchange, is the biggest of these capital marts. Last year alone the banks operating on the Euromarket granted new loans on a world-wide scale totalling US$200bn.

The share of non-oil producing developing countries in this borrowing bonanza rose from US$26bn in 1980 to more than US$37bn in 1981.

It is these developing countries rather than the industrial nations that cause most of the worry in the financial community.

Their current account deficits are likely to have hit the US$80bn mark last year. Their total foreign debt is estimated at US$500bn. The trouble is that this debt generates further borrowing for debt servicing.

Hermann J. Abs, the grand old man of the German banking community, estimates that the interest payments alone for this group of countries amounted to US$40bn last year.

But we must separate the wheat from the chaff. Not all countries in this group give rise to concern. After all, today's industrial countries also had to borrow to promote development. But the number of black sheep among Third World countries is growing rapidly.

And it is not only the oil price that is at the root of this massive indebtedness. *In many instances it is due to mismanagement, corruption, lack of internal stability and, of course, arms purchases.*

As far back as 1980, the IMF had 26 countries on record as being in arrears with their debt servicing, to the tune of US$7bn.

In the meantime, high interest rates and the effect of the price increases have become even more disastrous.

Of the US$35bn interest payments due in 1980, two-thirds were accounted for by 10 countries: Brazil, Greece, India, Israel, Yugoslavia, Korea, the Philippines, Spain, Thailand and Turkey.

In the days when the banks' main aim was to see their assets and credit volume grow, only very few of them were aware of the danger that lies in excessive foreign indebtedness.

But there has been a change in the past two years. Now every bank dealing in foreign business has a watchdog system for the attendant risks and a borrowing limit for every country. The risks are two-pronged:

- The credit-worthiness risk of the borrower is the same as that in domestic banking.
- The more important risk is that attached to a country's ability to repay principal and interest in hard currency.

Poland has been such a risk case for some time. Yet German banks extended further credit — mainly due to political pressure and the banks' reluctance to write off bad debts and thus close with a considerably poorer balance sheet.

If Poland were to discontinue repayment of interest and principal altogether and if no rescheduling of loans were made, they would be a complete write off for the banks.

This explains why the banks continue lending to poor credit risks: they want to ensure their debt servicing ability. But for how long can this continue?

The Polish problem has now put the spotlight on the East Bloc. Its foreign debt now stands at US$80bn with Poland's share alone accounting for US$27bn.

Rumania is negotiating behind closed doors with its major lenders in a bid for a rescheduling of the loans.

But the East Bloc is not the only risk case. The same applies to the developing and threshold countries.

The days of easy borrowing abroad are over. Commercial banks have become more cautious under the impact of the Polish shock.

Most of them now want their governments to guarantee foreign loans. But the governments of the industrial nations are themselves troubled by budgetary deficits and are therefore frequently unable to make government to government loans or to guarantee exports to poor credit risk countries.

As a result, such guarantees have been restricted.

The international financial organisations such as the IMF and the World Bank are fully extended and have to look for new funds.

But there are limits here too, especially as a result of the high interest rates, which eat up an ever larger part of the export earnings of the borrower.

It is still premature to talk of an international financial crisis, but the world economy is headed for it unless this borrowing process can be halted and existing loans rescheduled.

This should go hand-in-hand with terms that would ensure that the borrowed money is used to promote development and generate trade surpluses to enable the borrower to repay the debt.

Walter Trautmann

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 29 January 1982)

Continued from page 5

for an employer when *there* are disparities.

In Berlin, public service wage-earners are allocated to the local government sector, whereas salary-earners are considered to be *Land* employees.

In Baden-Württemberg salaried staffs in both categories work alongside each other in district council offices, which can lead to fiendish difficulties.

How is a politician to explain that one will have to forfeit one per cent of his weighting whereas the other will not?

Cannot trade union members who are put to disadvantage fairly demand that their union campaign on their behalf for equal treatment?

So the politicians' aim of sounding a clarion call seems destined to founder on the desire to give equal treatment to civil servants and public service salaried and wage-earning employees.

The employers ought to have appreciated that not even the best of intentions were going to eliminate the fact that differences between the various staff categories did in fact exist.

Non-civil servants in the public employ do pay social security contributions like everyone else (except civil servants), and their earnings are negotiated, whereas civil service salaries are decreed.

The likelihood is that wage talks will be brought forward and the one-per-cent cut quietly shelved for the time being. But the terms finally negotiated will be the proof of the pudding.

Are public service workers going to accept tolerable cuts (tolerable, that is, in the economic circumstances) in exchange for their increasingly valuable job security? We shall see.

Suse Weidenbach

(...ter Zeitung, 30 January 1982)

Industry keeps production stable

The outlook for manufacturing industry improved in December, according to a survey by the Munich-based Ifo Institute for Economic Research.

Output almost held its own and 79.3 per cent of production capacity was in use compared to 78.3 per cent in September. Stocks were down.

The companies concerned are more optimistic about the next six months than they were in November.

But Ifo says that the positive signs in evidence until October are no longer there.

Ifo does not exclude the possibility that the dispute over the future course of economic policy has created a mood of uncertainty in the business community although export prospects for the next few months are considered good.

In December, the construction industry viewed its prospects for the next six months as being no better.

The slight improvement in the previous two months did not continue.

Capacity utilisation declined by two per cent to less than 50 per cent (December 1980: 58 per cent).

The order books in December covered 2.3 months, the same as in November.

dpa/VWD

(Die Welt, 28 January 1982)

Rise of dollar against mark expected

Handelsblatt
WIRTSCHAFTS- UND FINANZZEITUNG

Euphoria over the rapidly improving balance of payments tends to obscure the storm warnings for the international foreign exchange market.

The deutschemark shows clear signs of improvement, but there is a new threat looming.

While the Bundesbank operates on the assumption of an appreciating deutschemark, American banks and money experts expect the dollar to again reach its previous high against such key currencies as the deutschemark.

Major American banks expect the dollar to rise against the deutschemark to an upper limit of DM2.40 to DM2.50. What has happened?

Latest German foreign trade figures show a gratifying consolidation. December 1981 showed a surplus of DM4.9bn in the balance of payments — a record which few would have expected.

As a result, last year closed with a current account deficit that had dwindled from DM29.8 in 1980 to DM17.5bn.

The 1980 mammoth deficit was one of the main reasons for the strength of the dollar against the deutschemarks.

The huge transatlantic interest gradient and the "Reagan bonus" also played a role.

This last appreciation bout of the dollar hiked it from its low of DM1.70 to a top mark of DM2.57.

But the international market response to Germany's improved balance of payments and other fundamental data has been sceptical. American foreign exchange analysts in particular tend to overemphasise the negative factors concerning the deutschemark.

President Reagan's decision not to use higher taxes to alleviate the budgetary deficit is taken as an indication that American interest rates will rise still further.

High interest rates on dollar accounts and an inflation rate stabilised at between seven and eight per cent will make for a continued dangerous transatlantic interest rate gap.

The unexpectedly severe American recession, one line of argument goes, must lead to cutbacks in imports and thus reduce the American balance of payments deficit.

But a recent opinion survey by the *Wall Street Journal* shows that the transatlantic differences on sanctions against Poland and the weakness of the Bonn coalition government have harmed the position of the deutschemark.

Seen in this light, the deutschemark will remain vulnerable in the weeks and months to come. To make matters worse, exaggerated ideas on Germany's dependence on trade with the East Bloc prompt people to get rid of their deutschemark holdings.

It should be one of the major tasks of Bonn policy makers to try and repair this negative scenario. After all, they know that international foreign exchange markets tend to over-react dangerously.

Klaus C. Engelen

(Handelsblatt, 2 February 1982)

■ THE EEC

Commission urged to step in and halt national rivalries, selfishness

DIE WELT

There is too much national rivalry and selfishness among EEC members, says Bonn Agriculture Minister Josef Ertl.

This domination of national interests was demonstrated in budget problems, negotiations over fishing rights and debate about enlarging the Community and financing the farm policy.

It was up to the EEC Commission in Brussels, as the guardian of the Treaties of Rome, do something about it.

Herr Ertl was speaking at the opening of the Berlin Green Week food and agriculture show.

He deplored the fact that subsidies distorted natural competition and warned of the protectionist trends of many governments.

But he sees no reason for pessimism. "When did we ever have time like these? You can buy absolutely everything from all parts of the world."

The 763 exhibitors from 34 countries have again presented a vast array of goods.

Denmark's EEC Commissioner for Agriculture Poul Dalsager praised the Green Week as a proof of the advantages of the huge domestic market provided by the Community — a market that is also enormously rich in culinary pleasures and traditions.



A barrel of fun. Bonn Agriculture Minister Josef Ertl tries his hand at a barrel organ at the Berlin Green Week show as the organ grinder shows his appreciation. (Photo: dpa)

Agriculture, he said, still plays a major role in the European Community, providing a livelihood for 40 million Europeans, 15 per cent of the Community's population.

"We hear every day about food shortages in major regions of the world, some of them on our doorstep. The Community is lucky not to have had such problems in decades but to have instead been able to play an active part in combating famine in other parts of the world."

The EEC had undertaken to ship DM220m worth of butter, beef and grain to Poland.

Referring to the forthcoming negotiations on agricultural prices, he said that the Commission would present guidelines based on the fact that the economic situation calls for a "cautious price policy."

Dalsager stressed that spending in the Community's agriculture policy must not be permitted to outstrip revenues. Agriculture policy, he said, must adapt to efforts to revitalise the economy as a whole. And in view of the high unemployment rate, he said, it was necessary to check the exodus from rural areas.

Constantin von Heereman, president of the German Farmers Association, said the days are gone when the general growth in the GNP made it possible to solve specific problems. He stressed, however, that there was no reason for any doomsday mood.

Von Heereman did, however, express concern over our agricultural future. No other branch of the economy, he said, had invested such a large portion of income as had agriculture.

Narrowing of income gap sought

He summed up the aims of his Association, saying: "After all, we don't ask for the constant rise of an income that is already high. What we are after is simply a narrowing of the enormous gap between farmers' incomes and those of other sections of the population."

His association, he said, was prepared to help solve the Community's and Germany's agricultural problems.

Denmark's Agriculture Minister, B. R. Westh, deplored the dwindling of farm incomes in the Community. He also expressed concern over the ever growing production of surpluses.

He was confident, however, that the Common Agricultural Policy could solve these problems though it would have to adapt to market conditions.

Peter Weertz

(Die Welt, 22 January 1982)

Proposed produce price rises not enough, say farmers

RHEINISCHE POST

EEC farmers — there are eight million of them — say a nine-per-cent increase in farm price guarantees is not enough.

The increase is less than the average EEC inflation rate of 12 per cent.

German farmers would be particularly hard hit. The EEC Commission wants them to accept 2 per cent less than the German inflation rate.

So their increase would only be 4.5 per cent, half the overall rate.

The proposals would hit the EEC's 270 million consumers. Food would cost 3 per cent more and would push up the overall cost-of-living index by half a per cent.

Total cost of the increase would be DM3.15bn. As this amount has not been allowed for in the 1982 budget, a supplementary budget would be needed.

This would bring the total EEC budget to DM56.3bn, two thirds of which involves farm spending.

To make matters worse, nine of the EEC members are expected to "buy" the new agriculture prices from Britain: Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington has told the Council of Ministers that his country would block the price negotiations of Agriculture Ministers due to begin on 15 February until the Community agrees to grant Britain a reduction of its contribution to Community coffers for a duration of at least five years.

Lord Carrington demands a financial shot in the arm of DM2.45bn for the current year alone.

In view of this excessive demand, any reform of the Community's agriculture and finance policy is out of the question right now.

The heads of state and government who are urging such reforms speak a language that is very different from that of their Agriculture Ministers.

The Agriculture Ministers of all ten member nations oppose any change in the basic market system. They insist on financial solidarity and want to continue controlling the Community's costly agriculture policy through the pricing system.

Assuming the Council of Ministers agrees to raise prices by nine per cent, the German consumer would not only pay for it in the form of higher food prices but also in the form of added taxes for the increased Community budget, the financial booster shot for Britain and the DM6bn earmarked in the Bonn budget for German agriculture.

(Rheinische Post, 30 January 1982)

■ CIVIL RIGHTS

Public service jobs and political extremists

Ten years ago the *Land* heads of government agreed in Bonn on standard procedure for barring political extremists from public service jobs.

It was a ruling jointly reached by all the major political parties, but in Bonn the ruling Social and Free Democrats now rue it.

The Free Democrats say the anniversary is a fateful one, while Peter Glotz, the Social Democrats' business manager, has long felt it to have been the worst mistake made by the SPD since gaining power.

The 28 January 1972 bid to keep "enemies of the constitution" out of public service jobs has for 10 years been more than the subject of party-political strife.

It is also viewed with suspicion in neighbouring countries such as France, where in 1976 M. Mitterrand even set up a committee for the defence of civil and career rights in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Ironically it was Hamburg, where the Social Democrats hold power, that first felt unhappy about extremists in public service posts.

In November 1971 several teachers, all members of the DKP, or orthodox, pro-Moscow Communist Party, were accused of failing to fully support Basic Law, the 1949 Bonn constitution.

They faced the sack for alleged lack of loyalty owed as civil servants towards parliamentary democracy and constitutional government.

Three months later the heads of government of the *Länder* agreed on what officially was known as the *Extremistenbeschluss*, or extremists' decree, and unofficially, by opponents at home and abroad, as the *Berufsverbot*, or career ban.

Christian Democrats were jubilant. The left-wingers' long march through the institutions had, they felt, been brought to a halt.

In the early 70s there cannot really be said to have been any serious fifth-column activities by political extremists in the public service.

But current events and patterns of political power undeniably paved the way for the extremists' decree.

The Baader-Meinhof urban guerrillas were terrorising the country, leading to calls for a democracy more willing to stand up and fight.

Then there was the fact that the Bonn coalition of Social and Free Democrats had only a shoestring majority in the Bundestag.

The SPD, having been out of office for years, did not want to lay itself open to allegations of looking on idly at the decline and fall of the rule of law.

The argument advanced by the major parties still carries conviction. It was that people opposed to the state and system of government ought not to be in its employ.

But, as so often, it was the way the ruling was interpreted that caused the problems. It still does.

It is variously interpreted, depending on the party-political vantage point of the respective *Land* government.

Ministerial red tape was quick to descend on applicants screened by the *Verfassungsschutz*, or Office for the Protection of the Constitution, the Cologne-based intelligence agency.

Rulings are arbitrary, says GEW, the teachers' union, representing the profession worst hit by the decree.

In North Rhine-Westphalia the constitutional loyalty of would-be teachers has been questioned because Communists were among the tenants of the house in which they lived.

In Lower Saxony the *Verfassungsschutz* has been known to suggest that applicants might be a security risk because they had attended a solidarity festival with African liberation movements held by the Communist League.

Have applicants stood for students' union elections on a left-wing ticket? Have they handed out leaflets? Have they signed a candidate's nomination papers? Have they written an article for a student magazine that gave rise to the merest misgivings?

Then the likelihood is that they will be specially interviewed and that the result of the interview will not be known for months.

This delay is understandable enough. Since 1972 the *Verfassungsschutz* has been snowed under with enquiries whether facts are on file about applicants for public service appointments.

Between April 1973 and December 1980 Bavarian authorities submitted 186,111 enquiries. In 1,250 cases there was a file on applicants; 1,189 were left-wingers. In 114 cases applicants were then rejected.

Whatever this may be said to prove, it certainly shows that Bavaria is the keenest snooper, followed by Baden-Württemberg.

Both have Christian Democratic governments. In CDU-governed *Länder* applicants for public service posts seem as a general rule to the security-checked in this way.

Statistics cannot be compiled in how the extremists' decree has affected the political and civic courage of potential applicants for public service appointments.

People cannot be blamed for reluctance to sign a petition when they know it could be held against them when applying for a job years later.

CDU leader Helmut Kohl is well aware of this drawback, yet in 1980 when Hans-Ulrich Klose, the SPD mayor of Hamburg, chose to relax the rules the Christian Democrats were incensed.

Herr Klose said it might be better to run the risk of hiring a handful of Communist teachers than to risk having a large number of opportunists in the public service.

The extremists' decree no longer affects only university graduates who [join] the teaching profession or the civil service. Applicants for even the lower echelons of railway or post office staff [are] also screened.

Train drivers and post office clerks have already been sacked for being DKP members. More cases are still in the pipeline.

The arguments put forward remind one of Bismarck, who said that in connection with riots or troop train the political views of even railway signalmen could be important.

Assuming Bonn Interior Minister Gerhart Baum does what he said he was going to do and draws a distinction between a public servant's degree of responsibility and his liability to be screened, the issue looks like being referred to the Constitutional Court again.

They last ruled on the decree in 19[..], but what they had to say does not seem to have dampened in any way the enthusiasm of the bloodhounds in civil service recruitment departments.

This is something the politicians would do well to remember. It is not enough to say, true though it may be, that screening is strictly constitutional.

So a more enlightened version of the extremists' decree as envisaged by Herr Baum merits serious consideration and does not deserve to fall foul of party-political strife.

Peter Rickmann

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 26 January 19[..])

Data protection: problem is where to draw the line

Only a handful of experts had heard of data protection a decade ago. Today the computer is widely felt to entail risks from which the individual needs protection.

There once was a time when the privacy of the home was felt to need constitutional endorsement to protect the individual from snooping by society and state.

The idea now is to protect us all from computer snoopers, and a wide range of laws, bye-laws and regulations have been passed or issued in a surprisingly short time.

Data protection is something people have come to feel they need, and more has been accomplished in this sector than in many others.

The government has dispensed with many time-honoured but dubious files on members of the public, especially in the security sector, and amended procedures that were convenient but prying.

The guidelines on criminal records agreed by the Federal and *Land* governments are an example.

Half a million entries in *Verfassungsschutz* computer records have been deleted over the past two years in a bid to keep records up to date, says Richard Meier, head of the Office for the Protection of the Constitution, or domestic intelligence and counter-espionage agency, in Cologne.

Yet now, of all times, the alarm has been sounded by data protection commissioners of both Federal and *Land* governments.

Some, like Hesse's Spiros Simitis, say we face an increasingly critical phase. All level more serious accusations in their annual reports than in the past.

It is true to say that resistance to the new regulations is growing in the civil service, which has always been more sceptical about data protection than the politicians.

Ministry officials in Baden-Württemberg, for example, are seriously considering a review of provisions that have only just come into force in scientific research.

Data protection commissioners are keenly aware of the mounting pressure against them and their brief. There are several reasons for it.

First, there have been narrow-minded exaggerations verging on the ludicrous, such as the debate on whether old people should be congratulated on their birthdays without first being asked whether they wanted to be reminded that they had reached a ripe old age.

Then, more seriously, there are human shortcomings on both sides. Feelings are bound to be hurt when experts clash head-on with bureaucracy.

This leads to unsuitable moves and verbal skirmishes that do data protection no good and doubtless help to make civil servants feel unsure of themselves.

Professor Hans Peter Bull, the Federal data protection commissioner, has exchanged words with Bonn Interior Minister Gerhart Baum.

One of the main points on which they clashed will have been which of them was the better data protector.

But the crux of the debate is sure to be where to draw the line between privacy of the individual and government commitments.

Mere lip service is no help, and the dividing line has shifted to the disadvantage of the individual, as an example in Baden-Württemberg shows.

The police records computer now has on file not only particulars of people with criminal records and of police suspects but also of all registered prostitutes in Baden-Württemberg, even those who have never been on the wrong side of the law.

No-one would deny that the police

Hans Peter Bull ... clash with minister
(Photo: Sven Si[..])

must keep an eye on prostitutes and pimps, but local files are surely enough. They have been in the past.

Opening statewide files on groups of people who are not even suspected of criminal activities is surely not a step in the right direction.

The latest idea is to open computer files on rockers. Who is a rocker and who is to say who is one and who isn't? The only valid criterion is a criminal record, and that already means a computer file.

The security authorities must unquestionably be allowed to use the latest techniques and technologies to fight crime.

But when they start to extend their brief, data protection commissioners are right to sound the alarm.

Stefan Geiger

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 27 January 19[..])

■ BUSINESS

Show brings fair weather for up-market boat builders

The leisure-boat building industry is having a difficult time in most countries. The Düsseldorf boat show gave an idea of what can be expected this year.

It was a good boat show, especially for manufacturers of very expensive boats designed to suit the pockets of lawyers, accountants and doctors.

Manufacturers of sundries, surfboards and smaller craft can also be satisfied.

But the boats in between, yachts selling at DM20,000 to DM80,000, are not finding buyers. In many cases they are being stockpiled for export, thereby saving at least on value-added tax.

There are several reasons why the boat trade, both yachts and power boats, is in the doldrums:

- There are too many second-hand boats up for sale and they are not selling at the prices private owners have in mind. A four-year-old boat has a market value of about half the original price, so many yachtsmen are not trading their old boats in because they can no longer afford to do so.
- Interest rates on loans to buy a new boat are too high. They too discourage families from buying new.
- So many owners are holding on to their old boats and just re-equipping and improving them, which is why the trade in equipment is fine.
- As always, there are not enough moorings, and this perennial lament sounds an even sorrier note this year. When local authorities plan a new yacht harbour nowadays they find the environmental lobby coming down on them like a ton of bricks.
- The trade has always said that for every new boat sold, two and a half second-hand ones had to change hands. So with 35,000 used sales last year the market is strictly limited.

Domestic manufacturers face cut-price competition from French and Scandinavian yards. In Sweden, for instance, yards are subsidised to save the jobs.

In France there is a manufacturer of cigarette lighters who subsidies a boat yard as a hobby. He invests tens of millions a year to keep it going.

"The Scandinavian economy is down and out in any case," said an exhibitor at Düsseldorf, "and if we carry on as we have been doing we will be where they are now in a couple of years' time."

Fifty per cent of domestic manufacturers could easily go to the wall, but small firms are flexible and although there have been many workers laid off, yards stay in business by specialising or concentrating on repairs.

So only about 30 per cent of manufacturers are expected to have to close, which accounts for the general tenor of opinion at Europe's largest boat show.

Düsseldorf had little that was new to offer in the categories of craft on show, but there were many smaller items of interest.

In engines, for instance, economy is what counts, and Yamaha have introduced a new 115-hp outboard motor that runs on a mixture of 100 to 1, which is ecologically fine.

Arguably even finer, at top speed it has a consumption of 35 litres an hour, or 15 litres at half-throttle, the manufacturers claim.

There were also a wide range of new engines with electronic ignition. That's nothing new, you may say; Mercury, Evinrude, Johnson and Mariner already have that.

But what they don't have, the Japanese say, is a rev throttle that runs whenever the screw surfaces during cornering or the motor threatens to overheat. It uses sensors.

The Japanese (Honda too are very much in the outboard motor market) also have trim and tipping gear as a standard feature.

BMW are keen to make headway in the motor market, but more interested in built-in motors with gear drive. They have improved the streamlining of the underwater section and claim to have gained up to four knots an hour.

The Munich manufacturers say they have made 20 changes to their gear drive, which is designed for three petrol engines (four- and six-cylinder versions) and the new D 150 marine diesel, a six-cy-cylinder afterburn model.

It remains to be seen whether they will be able to hold their own against competition from Volvo-Penta or Mercury, who have eight-cylinder Chevrolet motors.

There were innovations in surfing too. Manufacturers' stands were besieged. The trade expects to sell about 65,000 new boards this year, and new chillproof wet suits to go with them.

Last year 80,000 were sold, so there are signs that the market may be nearing saturation point, especially as facilities are strictly limited in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Surfing is a fine sport, but inland, on rivers and lakes, conservationists tend to frown on it as despoiling nature.

There are now, shorter boards and an increasing range of boards for special purposes that can easily cost DM2,000 or more.

Some boards are so short that they are not going to carry the surfer in the normal way, but in strong wind they will be fine for windsurfing.

There is also emergency equipment for surfers, so they can send up flares and SOS signals.



This Norwegian yacht with diesel engine can sleep seven. It was on show at the Düsseldorf exhibition. (Photo: dpa)

There are new roof racks too. Mobility is most important. Trailers are making a comeback, and they are far from expensive.

A trailer for a payload of 250kg can be bought for as little as DM700 and will soon take the motor boat fan and his equipment further afield.

Hempel have launched a new yacht paint. The anti-fouling layer is washed away by friction to reveal a further layer that keeps barnacles at bay.

The manufacturers claim that the new coating does not grow less effective with time. It is available in a choice of five colours.

Electronics on board yachts and motor boats is being increasingly miniaturised. For a few thousand marks you can buy a Loran device that registers your exact position every 20 seconds.

Short-wave receivers are a little more expensive than conventional DX equipment, probably because they are Bundespost-approved. The same goes for telereaders manufactured by Richter & Co. of Hanover.

The telereader uses either a monitor screen or the ship's TV to print out Morse code messages or receive teleprinter calls.

This makes it much easier to handle meteorological reports relayed in this way. The device also comes with a paper printout attachment.

Safety is a consideration to which more attention could well be given. A wide range of life rafts are available, and FM/VHF radio relay sets are getting steadily cheaper.

They sell for as little as DM1,300, which would have been unthinkable a few years ago, although this price does not include the aerial and cables, which cost an extra DM200.

Despite forecasts of gloom the Düsseldorf boat show continues to hold forth prospects of summer boating, and it provides a comprehensive range of exhibits for surface and underwater sports, for anglers and water ski fans, for yachtsmen and power-assisted sailors.

It is well worth visiting, especially as, unlike its Hamburg counterpart, it caters for sailors in the Mediterranean and, nearer home, off the Dutch coast.

Dieter Harder

(Kieler Nachrichten, 20 January 1982)

Fire-resistant lifeboat

This fire-resistant lifeboat is said to improve the chances of survival for crews of burning ships. Developed by yacht and boatbuilder Ernst Hatecke, it is said to be able to withstand fire for about 10 minutes. It makes use of a water sprinkling system which pumps out 1,500 litres a minute. (Photo: Hatecke)

Buyers go for surfboards

Given the state of the economy the trade was satisfied with business at the Düsseldorf boat show. No-one was expecting spectacular results; manufacturers merely hoped business would be consolidated at a low level.

Before the boat show demand, especially for new boats, was very slack. Now yards have enough orders to keep going until next season.

Business at the upper end of the price range has hardly been affected. Buyers of expensive yachts are not in the economic doldrums.

Smaller, family-sized yachts are helping to keep the trade on an even keel too. Surfboard sales are likewise brisk, having hit sales of small yachts.

Competition is fierce in the surfboard market, with everyone keen to corner as large a share as possible of a growing market.

But manufacturers of power yachts are in a bad way. Business has been buffeted by the high price of fuel and the cost of environmental regulations.

Sales of parts and equipment, on the other hand, are as brisk as ever.

Price increases of between five and 10 per cent should allow many manufacturers to improve plummeting profits.

The trade in second-hand boats also ensures that the cash register keeps ringing.

When the economy regains momentum, interest rates are lower and the overall political situation shows signs of improvement business is sure to pick up.

Peter Schlösser

(Handelsblatt, 1 February 1982)

■ THE OUTDOORS

Avalanche deaths: why did party of children ignore warnings?

Thirteen died, including 12 teenagers, when their party was caught in an avalanche near Salzburg.

The party of 21, including three instructors, were on an Outward Bound course from Berchtesgaden, in Bavaria.

Visibility was down to a mere 10 yards when the group set out in fog, wind and heavy snow.

Reaction to the expedition has been savage: "It was a suicide squad venture," said one observer.

Other comments were stronger.

People in the area say they could hear all afternoon the thunder of avalanches rolling down the narrow valley.

Ski lifts had been closed for hours and fresh snow had fallen knee deep since the day before.

The warden of the nearby mountain hut said: "No one asked me, I'm sorry to say. Otherwise they would all still be alive to tell the tale."

The accident backs up doubts that the people of Werfenweng, the centre nearest to the accident area, have had about these endurance training parties.

Werfenweng ranger Pius Gschwandtner said the locals have been sceptical for years.

Says Erhard Gruhn, head of the Salzburg region of the mountain rescue service: "Wearing an avalanche bleeper and suitable equipment is no substitute for mountaineering experience."

The Berchtesgaden Outward Bound School is run by a German Association for European Education and one of 30 all over the world.

Its short courses are described in the prospectus as a challenge for young people with the pluck to embark on adventure. In summer there are climbing and canoeing courses, in winter Alpine skiing expeditions.

On the fatal Sunday, one of the instructors, a trained mountaineer, wanted to call it a day and go back to the village, but the heavy avalanche of soggy snow a kilometre wide beat them to it.

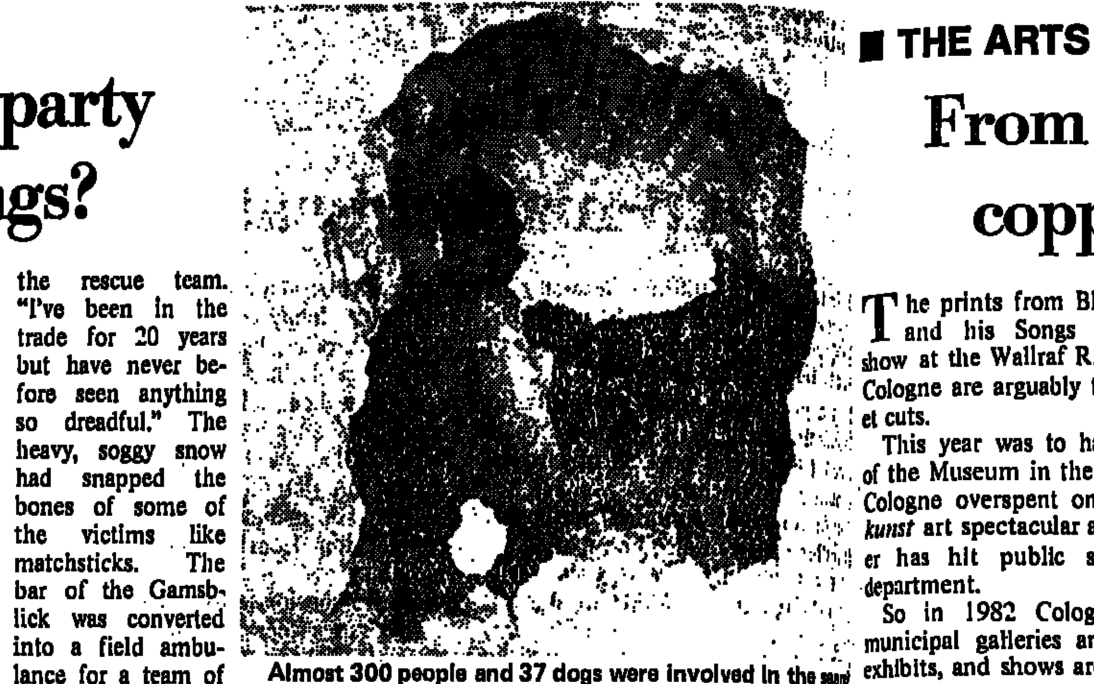
"They would all have died if Stefan Bleilinger, a 17-year-old Munich apprentice, had not had the pluck to struggle through to the inn," says Otto Krahbichler, mine host of the Gamsblick.

Stefan was not seriously hurt or snowed under by the avalanche and made it to the inn from the scene of the accident in about three quarters of an hour.

"He was completely shocked, bled from his nose and mouth and just about managed to explain what had happened," says Krahbichler, who lost no time in alarming the gendarmerie.

A quarter of an hour later the first search parties arrived. At 4.15 p.m., two and a half hours after the accident, three victims were found. Two of them were already dead, one was still alive.

"Then one thing after another happened," says Helmut Hörmann, head of the rescue team. "I've been in the trade for 20 years but have never before seen anything so dreadful." The heavy, soggy snow had snapped the bones of some of the victims like matchsticks. The bar of the Gamsblick was converted into a field ambulance for a team of 13 doctors. Blood transfusion sets were suspended from the ceiling.



Almost 300 people and 37 dogs were involved in the search (Photo:

One boy died despite heart massage and artificial respiration in the mountain hut.

Up to 300 people and 37 dogs searched for the missing boys. They worked until late, using searchlights, but eventually the search had to be abandoned and the last body was not recovered until the following day.

The sun shone brightly the day after the accident, but holidaymakers just stood around in groups, at a loss what to do. Very few went up on to the slopes.

Mini-avalanches kept crashing down. Herr Hörmann sent only 50 of his best men into the disaster area.

A blue anorak was sighted in the white snow. It belonged to the last victim, a 17-year-old Hamburg boy. The dead were immediately laid out in the village church.

Two thousand people have died in avalanches in the Alps over the past 20 years. Ninety-five per cent of avalanches were triggered by holidaymakers and could have been avoided.

Despite electronic SOS bleepers transmitting on a variety of frequencies and a range of other aids 150 people still die in Alpine avalanches every year.

Says the Innsbruck mountaineering college: "All you can do about avalanches is be careful and steer a wide berth of areas where they are likely to occur."

With the slopes so over-run and long waits at the ski lift this season, the deep snow a little of the beaten track has grown increasingly popular.

But off the beaten track skiing is more dangerous. If you must go skiing in areas where avalanches might happen, do abide by a few basic rules.

After carefully choosing a route and checking the weather forecast, take a long look at the map to gain a clear idea of the terrain.

Equipment should include a bivouac bag, an aluminium foil sheet to avoid freezing to death, a first aid kit and a bleeper.

Skiers are advised to go down the slopes singly, to avoid hairpin corners and to head carefully from one safe point to another, such as a rock or a clump of trees.

If an avalanche is set in motion despite precautionary measures, the skier should try and *schuss* to keep ahead of it.

But if it is too late for that or the skier is rooted to the spot by fear, he should take off his rucksack, throw away his sticks and slip out of his ski bindings.

He must then try and swim in the snow to keep on the surface, but keep a hand over his mouth to make of a hole in the snow through which breathe.

But the likelihood of survival for ger than two hours in the snow is about 10 per cent, experts say.

Since the search for survivors is against death and the clock, skiers help each other as the only prospect of survival. It is obviously idea to go out alone in avalanche ther.

Negligence, ignorance and taking ters too easily heighten the risk, tain rescue teams say. Skiers cannot have the locals' second sense, of

Avalanches occur on steep, treeless slopes of at least one in There are various kinds, the most quent and most dangerous being firm, packed surface layer that and buries everything underneath most often happens in heavy snow and storms or during a thaw.

The dust avalanche is a maelstrom fine-grained, dry new snow. Others gather momentum on hillsides lo down mixed with soil and scr

An avalanche warning system been run in Bavaria since May when an avalanche took 10 people their deaths on the Zugspitze, Germany's tallest mountain.

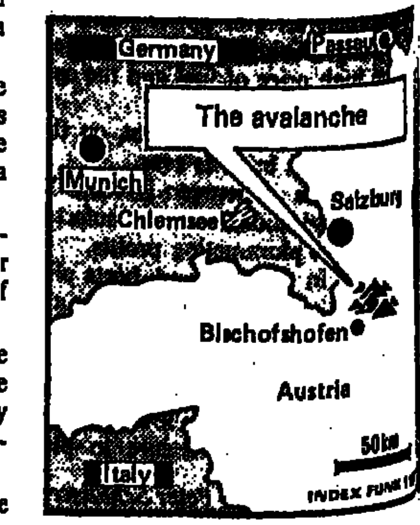
It has proved remarkably successful. There has since not been a single lanche accident on routes for which all-clear has been given.

Fourteen measurement points, teorological observations posts and other monitors form part of the which regularly checks the snow how dangerous it might prove.

The men who decide whether to close a route because of the risk hold down a responsible job charge.

Christina Freitag/Michael L

(Kieler Nachrichten, 2 February



■ THE ARTS

From the graver of a Soho copperplate apprentice

The prints from Blake's Book of Job and his Songs of Innocence on show at the Wallraf Richartz Museum in Cologne are arguably the result of budget cuts.

This year was to have been the Year of the Museum in the cathedral city, but Cologne overspent on last year's *Westkunst* art spectacular and the Grim Reaper has hit public spending in every department.

So in 1982 Cologne museums and municipal galleries are to buy no new exhibits, and shows are to be put together from stock or accommodated on tour, as it were.

Maybe the apocalyptic visions of the British Romantic artist William Blake, 1757-1827, are a fitting tribute to such drastic cuts.

But just as Job is reassured that his trials will come to an end and the Almighty will not forsake him, so art-lovers will hope that Cologne too will, figuratively, see the light.

Blake's interpretation of the Old Testament book is the tale of a fall into error and intellectual aberration leading to salvation once Job comes to know himself, thereby enabling himself to partake again of the blessings of this world.

The 22 original copperplate prints of Blake's Book of Job are to be found complete only in museums in the Anglo-American world, so Cologne can be justly proud of its show borrowed from a German private collector.

It also includes 15 small coloured prints from his Songs of Innocence, incunabula from the museum's print collection at which many an envious glance has been cast.

The Cologne exhibition follows on the 1975 show at the Hamburg Kunsthalle in dealing with the work of the strangest, bizarrest of British Romantics.

Blake stands for a mystical mannerism, an occult magic, an eclecticism and gloomy, eccentric belief, a revolutionary Christianity and enthusiastic approval of the French Revolution and the American War of Independence and, last but not least, an anarchist view of society.

All were very much in tune with the spirit of the 70s and their eschatological expectations. But did Blake gain a foothold in Germany? Has he ever done so?

In 1801, when Jean Paul first saw his "wonderful, fantastic copperplates" in the folio edition of Young's Night Thoughts, he noted:

"There are probably not two copies in Germany, which may well be a great help should I need to sell."

Three years later Jean Paul wrote in his *Vorschule der Ästhetik* (Aesthetics Primer) that:

"In addition to inner movement there is an even greater painter of *Gestalt*: inner movement. One imagination copies nothing with greater ease than another."

Blake, who was Mozart's junior by a year, was born in 1757 in Soho, London. His father was an Irish hosier. He was apprenticed to a copperplate engraver at the age of 15; to learn painting would have been too expensive.

All his life he fulminated against Rubens and Velasquez as artists to the nobility, and even against Rembrandt. He was also opposed to drawing from nature, having tried it for a while at the Royal Academy.

"It kills any imagination I have in me," he said. Inner vision alone fed his artistic imagination, and he had visions from childhood.

Poverty forced him throughout his life to place his talent as an illustrator and an engraver at the service of works by others.

"Poetry and painting were for him the powers that enabled man to engage in dialogue with Paradise," writes Geoffrey Keynes. "The were why he was not swept away by the Flood."

Blake's art is literary through and through. It can only be understood against the background of the Bible, the colourful language of the Old Testament, the book of laws, that he reconciles with the gospel of grace in the New Testament.

Blake also owes much to Milton's Paradise Lost and Paradise Regained. His was a twofold talent; he also had the gift of the word. He was an art theorist, a philosopher and a poet of the fundamental.

His Songs of Innocence are children's rhymes written under the influence of Swedenborg, the mystic, in miniature illustrations the size of bookmarks in hymnals.

They are coloured in a naive picture book manner in keeping with the Sunday school spirit. The stations of the Corr passed through by a Child Messiah, incorporated in the eternal cycle of Nature, include both an allegorical element and references to a social reality in stark contrast to the idyll. The soot of the Age of Industry falls on yellow and russet, pale green and white butterflies' wings, protesting against child labour, ill-treatment and exploitation. "For the educated classes late-18th century London stood mainly for reason, good manners and civilisation," writes David Bindman.



Then Satan 'smote Job with sore Boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.' One of the Blake copper-plates of the Neuerburg collection. (Photo: Catalogue)

"But for people like Blake it was a cesspool of corruption in which reason was glorified and a cover for atheism, which prevailed over the Church under the name of natural religion."

Blake, an impassioned revolutionary poet and artist, completed his Job series in 1825. They were, wrote Robinson, his first biographer, the progeny of a life in poverty and gloom to which his continual hallucinations condemned him.

The trials of the just, even though they may have been intended as a reflection on Blake's own life, have never been more adequately interpreted.

Never has Old Testament imagery been illustrated with such depth of emotion as in these scenes.

Visitors would do well not only to read their Job (and the helpful brochure compiled by Götz Czymmek) but also to take along a magnifying glass.

Ursula Voss

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 27 January 1982)

French tractors and brutally threatening technology

Berlin painter Bettina von Arnim is a member of the German Romantic literary family. *The* Bettina von Arnim was her great-grandmother and a person of whom she is still very much aware.

But the present bearer of the name sees herself as one of Berlin's critical realists and a painter to be seen alongside Petrick and Munsky.

She exhibits her work in the realists' gallery, Galerie Poll, even though since 1975 she has been at home at a studio in the countryside of south-west France.

Bettina von Arnim is a 40-year-old mother of two, but she is tall, slim and ash-blonde and still looks like a slip of a girl. Yet is she a realist?

Her pale landscapes, utopian and screen-patterned, look like an architect's nightmare. Plans and patterns are typical of her canvases and the titles she gives them.

Labyrinth, a large etching shown in various stages of development, is equally typical of an art of unending perspectives and wide horizons, with strict attention to detail but nor a vestige of what might be called the natural.

On closer examination, even the blue in the sky is found to reflect a misplanned world. The Moon hovers gigantically over a geometrically standardised waste land. Traces run through the desert and ice like tank tracks. This uniformity is deceptive in part. The labyrinths are not uninhabited, as they at first seem to be. They are not just overhead plans of cities. Fields and canals can be made out on which people or harvesting machinery can be seen at work. Agricultural machinery fascinated her even in her student days at the Berlin College of Art. She began with images of brutally threatening technology. Now she exhibits large scale drawings and watercolours of French tractors with names such as Rastouillet and Girad & Fils.

'Spur' (Track) (1979) by Bettina von Arnim. (Photo: P. Sticha)

They are now more harmless, insect-like monsters that stand for control over bulldozed nature.

The silence that comes out from the walls of the almost unfurnished gallery is the quiet of dead matter, but it is realised to be a warning that modern technology leads to the expropriation and denaturing of nature.

Environmental problems assume a political dimension. Ant-people, creatures that have forfeited their egos, have built and people, in a robot-like manner, these pyramids of the future.

A 1980 painting entitled Where and Why depicts people rushing around nowhere and everywhere. There are also features that hold forth science-fiction promise.

Bettina von Arnim's work is beautiful in the unexcited way in which it depicts threat. She may live in delightful countryside and feel fine, but as a painter her message clearly is that reality is no paradise.

She was quick to respond to the writer's suggestion of a similarity with Piranesi's *Carceri* (Dungeons) in the powerful impression of being shut in with no way out conveyed.

She smiled and said: "No-one has noticed that yet." Bettina von Arnim is not keen on publicity, dislikes talking about herself and is quick to switch to generalisations. In this she has much in common with her Romantic forebear.

Hedwig Rohde

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 31 January 1982)

■ LITERATURE

A guide through a short and apparently confusing life

Is Rilke modern once more? If the dust cover of Wolfgang Leppmann's biography is anything to go by this would seem to be so.

The blurb says that the biography presents Rilke from a new perspective as the representative of an era of social change.

The blend is certainly promising: there is the new with which to identify and there can be no doubt that we are in the throes of social change.

Has Rainer Maria Rilke thus been presented at the right moment as the man who opted out, the prophet of the crisis of values, the bard of *angst* about the future of mankind. Is he our Rilke of the 1980s?

The reader soon realises that none of this applies — at least not in such a cliché form.

Wolfgang Leppmann presents himself as a knowledgeable scholar of German literature and a readable biographer acting as a guide through Rilke's short and apparently confusing life. (The poet died on 29 December 1926 only four weeks after his 51st birthday.)

This brings us to the seemingly harmless promise in the title of the book to the effect that it depicts the poet's life *and* work. It also brings us to the wide chasm between Rilke's life and his inner development.

He started off as a poet, a youngster

> Wolfgang Leppmann: *Rilke. Leben & Werk;* published by Scherz Verlag, Berne; 483 pp., illustrated; DM36.

who handed his poems to strange passers-by in the street, and virtually on his deathbed he wrote his last poem into his notebook "in a handwriting that had barely changed."

This continuous and grandiose poetic development that seemed completed in the very beginning and then "compressed" this completion into perfection (Robert Musil was once prompted to remark that it sometimes seemed as if the young Rilke were imitating Rilke) was contained in a life that can only be called unsettled.

Apart from a few fleeting departures, Rilke always escaped the three most important factors of a settled life: homeland, family and gainful employment.

He did not live from but for his poetry. As a result, he always depended on the financial support of others, which — miraculously — he was never short of.

There was nothing to tie him to homeland and family. His attitude towards people was very similar to that towards places.

He was never at home in the place he originated from: Prague. And he had no ties with his parents.

Even as a 40-year-old he wrote poems that expressed this lack of a haven in childhood. And when he died he carried had never set foot in Czechoslovakia, which was not set up until after the First World War.

The time between childhood and death is marked by innumerable encounters with people and places. There were some fixed points like suns in a celestial system, among them Paris and Venice and, on the human side, Lou Andreas-Salomé and the Duchess Marie von Thurn and Taxis-Hohenlohe.

There were other deep involvements like with Worpswede, southern Sweden, Capri, Toledo, Rome and Avignon and there were people, primarily women, in large numbers. Like a driven creature, he travelled from place to place and from person to person.

He maintained close contact with the people of his era in correspondence and discussion, as friend and as lover. These people included Tolstoy and Rodin, Valéry and Hofmannsthal, Pasternak and Gide.

He wrote the occasional poem in Russian and then, towards the end of his life, increasingly in French. He translated from Russian, Danish, English, Italian, Spanish and, of course, French.

Rilke loved the big wide world, the glittering hotels and the grand castles as he loved the bearers of great names. Yet he was always lonely because only in loneliness could he fulfil the destiny that was his from the very beginning: to make the German poem perfect for the first time ever.

Figuratively, he was a prisoner in the first world war because he was a broken and unproductive man at the time and because, unable to travel, he spent those years in Munich devoting himself entirely to social life.

He was as much at home with the high aristocracy of the era as with the revolutionaries Eisner, Levien and Toller.

Wherever he went, he put his austere writing lectern in the centre of the sumptuous salon placed at his disposal — as a reminder. Life for him was waiting for inspiration to write poetry.

After the war, he spent years in search of a quiet room in which to "give birth". I have seen cats restlessly driven in their search for a suitable place in which to have their kittens, and Rilke was the same.

Having at last found the room in the Chateau de Muzot, it took six months before it gushed forth from him and he put the *Duineser Elegien* and the *Sonette an Orpheus* on paper within a matter of days.

This eruption had little to do with life. It was rather like Rilke's epitaph for Paula Modersohn-Becker: *Denn irgendwo ist eine alte Feindschaft / zwischen dem Leben und der grossen Arbeit* (roughly: For somewhere there is an old enmity between life and the great task). It is this enmity that makes it so difficult to lump together the life and the work of a poet as is so frequently done in biographies, which take the two as a sum total. Reality is different — especially with Rilke.



Rainer Maria Rilke. A portrait painted in June 1916 by his friend, Lulu Albert-Lasard. (Photo: Scherz Verlag)

This does not mean that Leppmann does not relate much that is interesting and even amusing.

No boredom and even an occasional laugh

I read the book without boredom and I learned a thing or two in the process. I even laughed on occasion, as for instance when the young Rilke, at one of those moments when he had to work for a living, said: "When I wrote for the *Bremer Tageblatt* I do it as if mumbling into my beard, covering my mouth with my left hand — hoping that this would make the style more journalistic."

Or when, during a Theodor Däubler recital, he said he felt like somebody "who was putting books on shelves when the upper row came down on him like an avalanche, among them such heavy tomes as encyclopedias. It is at such times that I feel entertained; but there remains the old enmity."

The fact that Leppmann's very readable book does not delve too deeply into these aspects accounts for its weakness when dealing with the "great task".

For example: Leppmann says about *Malte:* "The book owes its appeal largely to its extremely recise, intense and at the same time poetic language which is the more surprising as it was written in a non-German speaking country."

This sentence owes its flatness primarily to its extremely imprecise language which is the more painful considering that Rilke said about *Malte Laurids Brigge:* "He was a poet who hated vagueness."

I think such anaemic passages in Leppmann's book have something to do with the fact that he evades the difficulties inherent in "life *and* work" and "life *or* work".

He tells about Rilke's life and is curiously confused when it comes to the "great task", the place where the biographer's great task should begin.

Let us hope that the reader who will read the 500 pages of the Leppmann book realises that he has been given a few good pointers but that he still has to embark on the road to Rilke.

Hellmut Seemann

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 31 January 1982)

After 140 years all is forgiven as city honours rebel poet

The city of Bad Homburg has instituted a DM10,000 Hölderlin Prize. The first award will be made next year to commemorate the 140th anniversary of the poet's death. Hölderlin lived in Bad Homburg between 1798 and 1800 and again from 1804 to 1806. It was there that he wrote the second part of his novel (in letter form) *Hyperion*.

Friedrich Hölderlin was not particularly fond of the Germans. Nor are there many Germans who are fond of Hölderlin.

The fact that a German city has named a literature prize after the great poet 140 years after his death by no means indicates that he has become more popular now. The fact is simply that we have once more become aware of the past.

Bad Homburg should have remembered Hölderlin many years ago. The poet lived in the city on two occasions and this is where he wrote the second part of his *Hyperion* and the *Patmos Hymn* which he dedicated to the local squire.

But the Bad Homburgers ignored all this for decades, and the house in which Hölderlin lived fell into disrepair.

It was as if the city wanted to confirm what Hölderlin once said about the Germans: "Barbarians from way back whom industriousness, scholarliness and even religion have made even more barbaric."

There was a time when it seemed as if the old house would be torn down to make room for something more profitable.

But then the city fathers discovered that the poet's house could enhance the municipal image. They also discovered that tradition carried an obligation and decided that Hölderlin should become an inalienable and unforgettable part of Bad Homburg.

So restoration work on the building is to begin this year and the house is to be turned into a memorial.

The forthcoming renovation work might encourage optimists to quote a line from *Patmos: Wo aber Gefahr ist, wächst / Das Rettende auch* (roughly: danger carries the seed of salvation).

But the supporting measure in the form of the prize gives rise to mistrust. When cities institute prizes for the arts they are more interested in publicity than in art.

Wrote Hölderlin: "The Germans like to stick with what is absolutely necessary and this is why so much of what they do remains patchwork and so little is free, genuine and gratifying."

The Bad Homburgers are late in deciding to disprove this — too late.

Rainer Hartmann

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 30 January 1982)

■ MEDICINE

Schoolboy's death throws open the question of fatalities in sport

There will always be the risk of death in sport. Sports medicine experts say the possibility can never be entirely ruled out.

The issue has been given a public airing since a 17-year-old high-school boy died in December.

Gerd Ruppert, a pupil at a school in Erlenbach, near Aschaffenburg, in northern Bavaria, was taking part in a physical fitness test.

There were subsequent reports that Gerd had been taking drugs, but this was ruled out.

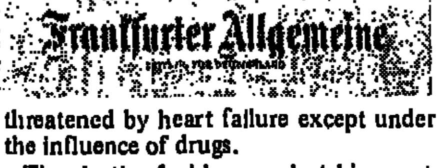
Now the Bavarian Department of Education has issue a report saying that there have been fatalities before among pupils taking part in sport.

Experts say the deaths are the result of an accumulation of circumstances and it is only coincidence that they happen during sport.

It is however fact that people who take part in sport only occasionally or without training are at risk.

In this category are school children taking part in fitness tests.

The Bavarian government report says that previous deaths among school children were not during fitness tests, but during athletics, swimming and normal physical education classes. The Berlin Institute for Sports Medicine has studied 59 fatal heart attacks that occurred during or immediately after sporting activities between 1966 and 1975. All victims were "more or less untrained occasional athletes" says the head of the Institute, Professor Mellerowicz. Professors Jokl and Hüllemann hold that top performance athletes are not



threatened by heart failure except under the influence of drugs.

The death of older people taking part in sport is viewed as "coincidental" (meaning that this could have occurred with any physical or emotional strain), but this does not apply to younger people.

Austria's leading expert in sports medicine, Professor Prokop, stresses that there is clear evidence that the deaths of many younger athletes are because of congenital or pathological heart anomalies.

"It is amazing how many of these young athletes had no subjective complaints and were top performers in their fields," hesays.

Mainz doctors Ofer and Ulmer have studied the sudden deaths of apparently healthy athletes. It turned out that their deaths were also attributable to pathological changes in the heart, high blood pressure or exertion at high altitudes and in great heat. But cardiovascular anomalies and infection played a surprisingly small role.

Athletes in whom autopsy showed no pathological changes were well trained and top performers. None had complained about symptoms that should have served as a warning.

Say the two doctors: "We must bear in mind that even an organism in the best of health and capable of delivering top performance can be damaged to a much greater extent than hitherto assumed."

But neither training nor thorough medical checkups can completely prevent the fatal collapse of completely fit young people under the strain of athletic exertion. This does not mean that training and checkups are pointless. On the contrary. The Mainz doctors consider such deaths "inescapable destinies for which nobody can be blamed — especially when there are no symptoms to indicate impending disaster."

Günter Lachmann

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 29 January 1982)



Persistent exercise is best for both young and old. (Photo: Wolfgang Haut)

Heart attack smokers and fatties just go on puffing and stuffing

Only half the smokers among heart attack patients in Heidelberg stop smoking. Many victims continue to overeat.

In the face of this, Professor Egbert Nüssel, of Heidelberg, told an internists' conference in Hamburg, intensive care after a heart attack did little good.

He said the main risk factors were smoking, overweight, high blood pressure and a high cholesterol level.

Of people aged between 31 and 40 who had had heart attacks, 75 per cent were smokers, 44 per cent were overweight, 27 per cent had high blood pressure and 63 per cent had too much cholesterol.

Every year there are 500,000 new coronary patients in Germany. Half have heart attacks.

There are 100,000 coronary deaths a year. Heidelberg's University Hospital has begun a study into the problem. Professor Nüssel's figures were the results of analysing 300,000 people in the Heidelberg area.

Now the doctors have adopted what is called the Hamburg model in which coronary patients join after-care groups to try and prevent subsequent attacks.

The Heidelberg researchers are also trying to increase prevention. They are using two towns near Heidelberg, Eberbach (population: 15,000) and Wiesloch (21,000) as the guinea pigs.

Other centres will eventually be used as well.

All people in the survey areas who are considered to be at risk will be indexed.

Focal point is a data bank compiled from doctors' records.

Information campaigns are included, starting with kindergartens and involving all forms of community groups.

Risk cases are given advice about diet and courses to stop smoking are run.

In support, self-help groups have been started.

In schools, children are checked to see if they are too fat. Pupils learn how to measure blood pressure.

All sorts of people, included some surprising ones, are used for information.

For example, a butcher: he revealed how to get the right cuts of meat at the right price.

This butcher makes 10 varieties of sausage with low fat and salt contents.

Results so far of the campaign: only one in 10 of those involved still smokes.

Another result is that doctors are having to change their ideas on the subject.

Professor Nüssel: "Now, they frequently have to leave their surgeries in favour of an information stall at the market."

Gisela Schütte

(Die Welt, 25 January 1982)

Something to remember – if you can

NÜRNBERGER *Nachrichten*

The way the human memory works can turn into a vicious circle.

If a person thinks that he will not remember, then his memory will in fact deteriorate.

That deterioration in turn reduces the confidence even further.

This phenomenon is at the centre of a research project by the newly founded Max Planck Institute for Psychological Research in Munich.

Financial support is being given by the Volkswagen Foundation.

As early as middle age, many adults worry that their memory has begun to get worse, that mental decline has set in.

Head of the Institute, Franz Emanuel Weinert, says that people worried about failing to solve problems can contribute towards failure by their mental attitude.

The result is a decline in mental performance.

He said people need formal help, such as at a school, to learn how their memory works and how to make use of this knowledge.

The institute is trying to draw up typical memory performance levels for all age groups.

Participants are asked to remember telephone numbers and learn certain texts by heart.

Children are given soccer events to remember and adults events surrounding the last presidential election in the United States.

The aim is to find out how much people know about their own memories, how they make use of this knowledge and whether differences in the degree of knowledge have an effect on the ability to learn and on memory.

Another objective is to shed light on the assumed better memory performance during childhood and diminishing retentive memory in adulthood and on whether these phenomena can at least partly be explained by changes in the awareness of one's own memory performance.

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 26 January 1982)

Too few donors for kidney transplant needs

More than 10,000 West Germans have a chronic kidney disease.

Another 2,000 join the ranks every year. And at least 1,500 transplants independent of kidney machines.

But only 800 transplants can actually be made. There are too few donors.

This has prompted ten major organisations to form a work group aimed at encouraging Germans to donate their kidneys after death.

One of the member organisations, a private health insurance company, says that every second German is prepared to act as a donor. The figure is as high as 70 per cent for people of a higher educational level.

Since the introduction of organ donor cards in 1980, some three million Germans are said to have been issued with them.

(Rheinische Post, 22 January 1982)